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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01211 142201Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W
----------150533Z 029408 /20
R 142038Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2589

UNCLAS MANAGUA 1211

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, ENGR, PINR, NU
SUBJECT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON ENERGY ISSUES, JULY 10-AUGUST 8, 1977

REF: STATE 40788

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS ING. OCTAVIO SALINAS M., FOR PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT PROJECT. THE PROJECT AND ITS OBJECTIVES, AS OUTLINTED IN REFTEL, ACCORD CLOSELY WITH MISSION POLICIES, ESPECIALLY POLICIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE SALE OF US GOODS ANED SERVICES AND TO ASSIST IN THE GROWTH OF THE NICARAGUAN ECONOMY. NICARAGUA IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING FURTHER ITS ENERGY RESOURCES AND WILL SOON BEGIN TO HARNESS ITS GEOTHERMAL ENERGY POTENTIAL AND INCREASE ITS HYDROELECTRIC CAPACITY. IT IS ALSO PLANNING TO IMPROVE ITS POWER DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS.

2. EMBASSY'S NOMINEE, SALINAS, IN PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE HEAD OF NICARAGUA'S NATIONAL LIGHT AND POWER AUTHORITY, ENALUF, AND IS ALSO HEAD OF A PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRM WITH TIES TO US ENGINEERING COMPANIES. HE IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO INFLUENCE DECISIONS REGARDING GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES AND CONTRACTS IN THE ENERGY FIELD.

3. SALINAS, AGE 50, WAS BORN IN BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA. GRADUATED IN ELECTRIAL ENGINEERING FROM CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D.C., IN 1952, AND HAD IN-SERVICE TRAINING WITH US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, 1953. WORKED WITH HARZA ENGINEERING CO. IN US IN 1954. RETURNED TO
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NICARAGUA IN 1954 AND BEGAN WORKING WITH ENALUF (1954-72), RISING FROM DISTRIBUTION ENGINEER TO GENERAL MANAGER. IN 1972, HE FORMED A PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRM WHICH HELPED TO ADVISE URUGUAYAN AND BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENTS ON THE ITAIPU PROJECT (1973-74). HIS FIRM, OCTAVIO SALINAS M. Y ASOCIADOS, WAS THE SUBJECT FOR A FAVORABLE WORLD TRADERS DATA REPORT BY THIS EMBASSY IN 1974. HIS FIRM IS NOW ASSOCIATED WITH BAKER & WIBBERLAY OF HAGERSTOWN, MD. SALINAS HAS

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SERVED AS SPECIAL CONSULTANT TO HARZA AND TO BURNS & ROE, BOTH US FIRMS. SINCE 1974, SALINAS HAS ALSO SERVED AS GENERAL ADVISOR TO ENALUF'S PRESIDENT, DR. LUIS DEBAYLE SOMOZA. HE IS A MEMBER OF NICARAGUA'S SOCIETY OF ARCHIETECTS AND ENGINEERS AND IS A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS.

4. EMBOFF INTERVIEWED SALINAS AND VERIFIED LATTER'S FLUENCY IN ENGLISH. HIS GENERAL INTERESTS ARE GEOTHERMAL POWER DEVELOPMENT AND SOLAR ENERGY. HIS SPECIAL INTERESTS INCLUDE RATE-MAKING POLICIES AND SYSTEM PLANNING FOR ADEQUATE POWER RESERVED AND ENERGY CONSERVATION.

5. EMBOFF FOUND SALINAS TO BE EXTREMELY QUICK AND DECISIVE. HE IMMEDIATELY COMPREHENDED THE SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT AND INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE, IF POSSIBLE. GIVEN HIS BACKGROUND AND POSITION OF INFLUENCE (PARA 2 ABOVE), EMBASSY BELIEVES HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT WOULD REDOUND CONSIDERABLE AND FAVORABLY TO USG INTERESTS.

6. PLEASE CLARIFY WHETHER GRANT IS POST OR CU FUNDED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GEOTHERMAL ENERGY, POLICIES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
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